















Thank you to the People of Cincinnati for your support and participation.

And Thank You to:

Commission Members Denise M. Driehaus, President Rev. Kazava Smith, Vice President Roscoe A. Fultz Catherine D. Ingram (2006) Michael J. Moeddel (2006) Daniel J. Gilday (2005) Dr. Florence M. Newell, Ed. D. (2005) Ean Harris, Youth Member Jacob Lawson, Youth Member James R. Garges, Director

Council Members Mark Mallory, Mayor James Tarbell, Vice Mayor David Rager, City Manager Jeff Berding, Council Member Chris Bortz. Council Member Y. Laketa Cole, Council Member John Cranley, Council Member David C. Crowley, Council Member Leslie Ghiz, Council Member Chris Monzel, Council Member Cecil Thomas, Council Member

## Cincinnati Recreation Commission

805 Central Avenue Suite 800 Cincinnati. Ohio 45202 CRC's INFOLine (513)352-4000 www.cincyrec.org

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# Annual Report

Cincinnati Pecreation Commission









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# Cincinnati Recreation Commission

# Letter from the Administration

Dear Members of City Council, Recreation Commission Members and Citizens:

There is a saying that goes, "the only thing that is permanent is change".

Changing economy and changing demographics are subjects that the Cincinnati Recreation Commission continues to deal with on a daily basis. In pursuing national recognition from the Commission for Accreditation of Park and Recreation Agencies (CAPRA), CRC focused on every area of operation while documenting and revising strategic plans for our ever changing city environment.

Some change is easy. Other changes are more challenging. There are a few that are inevitable and somewhat bittersweet. After over 20 years of devotion and hard work as president of the Cincinnati Recreation Commission, Dan Gilday retired at end of 2005. Though he won't be with us physically, his presence will be felt in the City of Cincinnati for many years to come. Denise Driehaus has now assumed the duties of president of the Cincinnati Recreation Commission and will take us through the next chapter in CRC's history.

Samue R. Barger

James R. Garges Director

Current Director, James R. Garges, (center) with (L-R) Foundation member James Keys, and past Directors Ron Chase & Wayne Bain, honor Daniel J. Gilday and his family for his commitment to CRC and the City of Cincinnati.



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## CRC Earns National Accreditation

On October 18, 2005 the Cincinnati Recreation Commission became one of sixty agencies in the United States to have received national accreditation from the Commission for Accreditation of Park and Recreation Agencies (CAPRA).

This rigorous, self- and peer-evaluation process is administered by CAPRA, an independent body sanctioned by the National Park and Recreation Association and the American Academy for Park and Recreation Administration (AAPRA).

The process of accreditation is extensive and usually takes several years to accomplish. The Cincinnati Recreation Commission has been pursuing accreditation since November 18th, 2003.

The process began with a thorough self-assessment study that involved a review of all areas of operation by the Cincinnati Recreation Commission staff. To earn accreditation, the department must demonstrate compliance with more than 156 operational standards set forth by the commission including administrative responsibility, fiscal policy, human resource management, program and service management, facility and land use management, security and public safety, risk management, communication and marketing, and evaluation and research. Agencies must meet

36 fundamental standards plus 85% of the remaining standards to achieve accreditation.

Director of Recreation, James R. Garges, commented that the process of accreditation "had improved the quality of the Cincinnati Recreation Commission's facilities, operations, programs and services".



## Corporate Partners Recognized

On December 15, 2005 the Cincinnati Recreation Commission said "Thank You" to Cincinnati Children's Hospital and The Kroger Company for their consistent, long-term partnerships by awarding both the Annual Corporate Community Partnership Award at the Second Annual Awards & Recognition Ceremony.

Cincinnati Children's Hospital Injury Free Coalition for Kids award was in appreciation of their long-term commitment and dedication to the Cincinnati Recreation Commission, and to the youth of the City of Cincinnati, by providing safer playgrounds and building stronger communities.

Kroger Company award was in appreciation of their long-term commitment and dedication to the Cincinnati Recreation Commission, and to the youth of the City of Cincinnati, through the development of the Kroger Family Fun Days.

They have shown an extraordinary level of commitment and deserved this special recognition!







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## Rebirth of a Classic In Westwood

After 12 months of closure for a \$2 million face-lift, Westwood Town Hall, re-opened on Friday, January 28, 2005. Vice-Mayor Alicia Reece, along with other city dignitaries, joined Jim Garges, Director of the Cincinnati Recreation Commission and members of the community in a ceremonial ribbon cutting. Everything but the walls were changed as part of the renovation. The building received new windows, a covered emergency exit, updated air conditioning, plumbing and electrical systems and renovation of the theatre.

## Winton Hills Renovation Breaks Ground

Mayor Charlie Luken, along with other dignitaries, participated in a groundbreaking ceremony for the \$1.2 million renovation project at the Winton Hills Recreation Center, 5170 Winneste Ave., on Thursday, April 28, 2005. This project will be a total interior renovation and will include replacement of the HVAC system, asbestos abatement and the addition of an elevator, 2 new restrooms and a concession area along with an addition to the front of the building that will house a large activity space. The addition of a new classroom, entry vestibule and new windows will also be part of the project. This project will be completed in 2 stages. The first part will consist of the renovation of the lower level, including the skating rink and the second part will involve the upper level. Completion is scheduled for May 2006.

## LeBlond Recreation Center Gets a Facelift

In late 2005 the Cincinnati Recreation Commission began a \$2.6 million renovation project at the LeBlond Recreation Center. The project includes the addition of 4,800 square ft, a new gym with rubber flooring, new restrooms, game room, weight/fitness room, meeting room, library, and activities room. The main entrance will be moved to the east side of the building and a new fire and security system will be installed. Work should be completed by November of 2006.

# New Mt. Washington Recreation Center Opens

The long-awaited recreation center in Mt. Washington opened on December 3rd, 2005. Outgoing Mayor Charlie Luken and many city dignitaries who helped make the center a reality were present to help celebrate its completion. The project cost \$5.5 million. The new center has two high school-sized gymnasiums, an elevated running track, a fitness center, a dance multi-purpose room, a locker room with showers, a teen room and a seniors and adults computer lab. There are programs for every age and ability available at the center.



A Proud Partnership of the Cincinnati Recreation Commission, Cincinnati Park Board and Hamilton Hamilton County Park District

The Place

The Otto Armleder Little Miami Park is located in the Linwood Community between Beechmont Avenue, Wooster Pike and the Little Miami River. This 350-acre site is already the second-largest park (after Mt. Airy Forest) and one of Cincinnati's last great open spaces. Through a \$3.8 million grant to the Cincinnati

Recreation Commission from the Otto Armleder Memorial Fund, development of the first phase of the park became a reality. The Cincinnati Recreation Commission and Cincinnati Park Board jointly own the land. Both organizations have worked actively with the Linwood Community Council and Little Miami Incorporated for several years to develop the park Master Plan. A Linwood resident recently announced the planning actually started over 40 years ago. The Hamilton County Park District has joined the team and will be funding the passive section of the park improvements and providing Ranger patrol for security.

#### The Plan

Architects and planners Glaserworks and Human Nature, Inc. have worked with the city planning team and residents to offer a unique blend of outdoor recreation experiences within the park.

<u>Active Recreation features:</u> Seven full size soccer fields, playground, 1.5-mile multi-use fitness trail, 1-mile interpretive trail, canoe and kayak launch area.

<u>Passive Recreation features:</u> River overlook, picnic shelters, prairie restoration area, floodplain ecology and wetlands trail loop.

Special features: 9-acre dog park

Support features: Restroom/Concession facility and parking lots.

#### The Schedule

Construction of the first phase was completed in July 2005. The Hamilton County Park District is funding the second phase of the project. Construction began July, 2005 on Phase II and is scheduled for completion and a Grand Opening late summer, 2006. Total cost of the park improvements is over \$8 million.

### A Brief History: Otto Armleder • October 15, 1862 - June 23, 1935

Otto Armleder was born in Cincinnati, the son of John and Marie Geiser Armleder, immigrants from Germany. He was educated at St. Mary College, now known as the University of Dayton, Ohio; St. Xavier College, now known as the Xavier University; and the Queen City Commercial College. At the age of 17, he started the Cincinnati Beer Bottling Company and then sold it three years later to start a business repairing and building wagons. The wagon business was incorporated in 1894 as the O. Armleder Company. At that time, it was one of the world's largest manufacturers of business vehicles. The O. Armleder Company began building motor trucks in 1912, and by 1919 this was its exclusive product. In 1922 the firm name was changed to the O. Armleder Truck Company and by 1923 was one of the largest of its kind in the world. Armleder was the first to introduce left-hand drive trucks and was the first to build a low-suspension truck. Five years later, Armleder sold the inventory and good will of the company to the LeBlond-Schacht Truck Company. He then retired from the manufacturing business, continuing the O. Armleder Motor Truck Company as an investment

company. Armleder was widely known as a philanthropist and for his activity in civic affairs. He was director of the Municipal Research Committee from 1912 to 1915. He was a life member of the Cuvier Press Club and member of the Queen City Club, Pelee, Knockers, Kenwood Country Club, Maketewah Country Club, Wyoming Club and was a Thirty-Second Degree Mason, a Shriner, a Moose, and an Elk. At the time of his death in 1935, Armleder's will created a trust to aid a variety of charitable causes. This fund has helped create Otto Armleder Memorial Park and Recreation Complex on the Little Miami River as it stands today.

Otto Armleder photo courtesy of Cincinnati Historical Society Library. Truck photo courtesy of Ace Doran Hauling and Rigging Company.



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# Pride in Our Playground Initiative Reaches Goal

The Cincinnati Recreation Commission's "Pride In Our Playgrounds Initiative" completed its mission of replacing or completely refurbishing all 108 city playgrounds on Monday, October 10th, when employees from PNC Bank constructed a new playground at Queensgate Ballfield, W. Court & Linn St. The project, which was started in 2001, had specific goals of renovating or replacing all 108 playgrounds within 5 years and making these playgrounds more attractive places for neighborhood children to play.

Because of corporations like PNC Bank, who also built the new playground at Corryville, CRC was able to complete its mission on time. The next page shows a Fact Sheet that gives an in depth explanation of CRC's Pride In Our Playgrounds Initiative. (page 6)

## Volunteer Projects ~2005

#### Volunteer Projects 2005

- Cross-town Help-out: Hirsch, Over-The-Rhine, Dunham North Avondale and LeBlond. Univ of Cincinnati and Xavier Univ. Students (150 Volunteers)
- McKie Garden Projects: rebuilt Garden Boxes and Wooden Bridge. 1000 Hands past Captains. (30 Volunteers)
- North Fairmont C. C.: Painting Project, General Electric (20 Volunteers)

### Community Built Playgrounds

- Forest and Irving: Children's Hospital, Avondale Community, Woodward H.S. Students, Kohl's Dept. Store (100 Volunteers)
- Airport Playfield "Spirit of 76": CRC Employee Volunteer Day (25 Volunteers)
- Cornuella: General Electric Employees (30 Volunteers)
- Haven Tot Lot: Children's Hospital and Avondale Community (50 Volunteers)
- Queensgate Park: PNC Bank Employees (40 Volunteers)

#### 1000 Hands Rehabs

- Roselawn 1000 Hands Playground: P& G Employees (40 Volunteers)
- Mt. Washington 1000 Hands Playground: General Electric Employees (50 Volunteers)
- Pleasant Ridge 1000 Hands Playground: General Electric Employees (60 Volunteers)

#### Volunteer Statistics

- Department wide # of Volunteer Hours in 2005: 36,614
- Savings to CRC based on National Hourly Wage Average for a Volunteer (\$18.04)  $36,614 \times $18.04 = $660,516.56$
- Donated Materials and Cash for Volunteer Projects in 2005 \$62,500



# Pride in Our Playground Initiative Fact Sheet

The Cincinnati Recreation Commission's historical roots started on the playground. In 1927, when Cincinnati's Recreation Department was first formed, "Play Streets" were the only place where neighborhood children could get together to play. There were no playgrounds. Wisely, the Recreation Department determined that plots of land would be a safer and more enjoyable place to play. Playground monitors were on hand to supervise the games and play with the children of the community.

Over the years the playground monitors disappeared and play apparatus was installed. Children would come to the playgrounds to play for hours. But, as organized sports began to take up most of the kid's free time and with both parents needing to work outside of the home, some of Cincinnati's playgrounds began to deteriorate. By the late 1990's, the playground equipment had become very outdated and some of areas had been over run with the criminal element.

In 2001, the Pride in Our Playgrounds Initiative was developed. It was a lofty project designed to not only update the city's playground equipment, but allow playgrounds to once again become an inviting place for the neighborhood children to come to play. After months of planning, several pieces of the puzzle began to take shape - all under the umbrella of the Pride in Our Playground's Initiative.

1,000 Hands Projects: The Cincinnati Recreation Commission built six 1,000 Hands Playgrounds beginning in 1998 with a new playground in Mt. Washington. Each playground involved over 2500 volunteers from the community and local businesses, working 15 hour days to complete a playground in just 5 days. The most recent playground, called "Every Child's Playground" was built in 2003 at Sawyer Point. It was built so that disabled children could play along side their able bodied friends. This program is ADA compliant

Adopt a Playground: After the playgrounds were built, they needed to be maintained. CRC encouraged faith based organizations and local businesses to "adopt a playground". This successful program has kept Cincinnati's playgrounds in great condition throughout the year.

<u>Corporate Builds & Community Builds</u>: During the Playground Initiative, many corporations contributed to the rebuilding process by sending their employees to re-build smaller neighborhood playarounds, while

eliminating the older equipment. Local churches and residents also joined in. This effort helps to prevent the playgrounds from deterioration. Children's Hospital completed six playgrounds by donating over \$250,000 and providing volunteers to install them.

Summer Playground Programs: Having wonderful playgrounds in the neighborhoods was only the first step in the Initiative. Giving the children of the community another reason to come to the playgrounds was the goal of CRC's summer playground program. On Monday, Wednesday and Friday each week during the summer, CRC provided playground leaders at designated playgrounds. The leaders would initiate sports, play board games with the kids and run arts and crafts projects. This successful program benefited thousands of local kids and provided them with safe, fun activities in the summer.

<u>Mobile Playground:</u> The Mobile Playground provides recreational activities to youth without easy access to fixed playgrounds. CRC packed up a city van with sports equipment, games and art supplies and journeyed through specified neighborhoods on Tuesday and Thursday each week during the summer. They made two 2-hour stops each day and their arrival was greatly anticipated by the kids in the neighborhood.

October of 2005 marked the completion of CRC's Pride In Our Playground Initiative. All 112 playgrounds have either been completely renovated or replaced and thousands of inner-city kids are now enjoying a safe and fun place at which to play. The city's playgrounds, which were once outdated and unused, have now become a source of pride for all the kids in the community.

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Playgrounds & Volunteers



# 2005 Statistics

## For ONE WEEK in July, 2005, the Cincinnati Recreation Commission recorded the following:

Outdoor Maintenance Work Orders Completed 75 Indoor Maintenance Work Orders Completed 38		Annual Employees Seasonal Employees Payroll Checks Processed TV News Hits & Newspaper Stories (100% positive) Average Viewership & Circulation Average Visits to the CRC Website Overall Attendance at Recreation Centers Youth Day Camp Attendance at Recreation Centers Rental Attendance at Recreation Centers Special Event Attendance at Recreation Centers Programs held at Recreation Centers Program Hours at Recreation Centers New Memberships at Recreation Centers Hours of Operation at Recreation Centers Participants in Senior Programs Participants in Senior Programs Participants in T.R. Programs Participants in T.R. Day Camps Participants in T.R. Adapted Aquatics Participants in T.R. Tennis Camp Participants in Discover SCUBA Participants in Discover SCUBA Participants in Recreation Employment Program Participants on Green Team Employment Program Participants on Empowerment Zone Employment Program Participants in Get Real, Get Fit Program. Participants in Rec. Employment Corps Training.	11 200,000 2,275 15,830 7,371 542 331 1,401 3,917 198 1,423 70 588 2,577 1,333 312 138 71 25 20 58 192 45 26 30 30 24 33	Weekly Attendance at Pools. Pool Memberships Sold. Attendance at Kroger Events. Participants in Guard Start Program. Adult Participants in Athletic Leagues. Youth Participants in Athletic Leagues. Youth Participants in Reds Rookie Success League Adult Tournaments/Events. Youth Tournaments/Events. Youth Tournaments/Events. Tennis Spectators at Lunken Playfield. Picnic Area Rentals at Lunken Playfield. Attendance at Lunken Playfield Bike Trail. Attendance at Lunken Playfield Playground Attendance at Lunken Playfield Mini Golf. Bicycle Rentals at Lunken Playfield Golf Rounds Played. Regular Golf Rounds Played. Senior Golf Rounds Played. Youth Golf Rounds Played. Visitors to Sawyer Point. Sawyer Point Event/Rental Attendance (3 events) Showboat Majestic Attendance. Fountain Square Attendance (3 events) Fitness & Rowing Center Attendance Sawyer Point Sand Volleyball. Skating Pavilion Attendance. Sawyer Point Tennis. Showmobile (Rentals) Areas Mowed & Maintained Ballfields Drug & Maintained Trash Cans Emptied. Sites Cleaned Outdoor Maintanance Work Orders Completed.	22,562 817 915 305 6,500 974 464 234 153 2,147 564 610 625 84 47 10,765 8,506 1,544 715 29,725 15,600 1,534 975 227 150 115 78 2 160 312 2,600 800 800
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#### Cincinnati Recreation Commission • 2005 Facility Statistics

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7
7
59
149
29
44
122
2
3
3

# -2005 Donors and Contributors

Thank you to the following for their generous support of the Cincinnati Recreation Commission Foundation:

#### **Individual Donors:**

Allen, Kathyleen Berry, James & Mary Anne Brown, Sue Cohen, Stephanni Collins, Dennis Connelly, John Crossett, Robert Eickhoff, Lynn Fatsy, James Gallagher, Marie Garges, Jim & Marty Gates, Bill Giannella, Andy Gilday, Daniel I. Harten, Terry Haves, Ed Hayes, Katherine Hedrick, Hawn Hilliard, Ian Hosier, David Humphrey, Chris Jackson, George Kohl, Eileen Kramer, Pat Keller, Leslie Lawson, John Leffler, John Lucas, P. Trent Mattia, Rose McCormick, Sharon McNamara, Thomas McOsker, Leota Meehan, Ken Motz, Nicholas Muething, Paul Pence, leff Pichler, Joe

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## Light Up Ceremony & Ice Rink

On December 25th, 1913, ten-thousand people gathered on Government Square to witness the lighting of the first official city Christmas tree. For the first time since then, the official Mayor's Holiday Light-Up was moved to Sawyer Point due to the renovation at Fountain Square. The Fountain Square ice rink was also moved to its new location at Sawyer Point, but all of the traditional holiday festivities still took place....only at an exciting new location. Outgoing Mayor Charlie Luken will performed one of his last official duties counting down with the crowd and helping to throw the switch which lit over 100,000 holiday lights around the Skating Pavilion.

After looking at more than 60 candidates, officials from the Cincinnati Recreation Commission chose a 25-foot Norway Spruce from the yard of Bob Bartolt in Westwood. Mr. Bartolt planted the tree in 1990 when he moved into the house. The tree was planted as a 1-foot sapling and was a gift from his parents. The tree was professionally moved by Evans Landscaping and arrived at the Sawyer Point Skating Pavilion on Wednesday, November 16th. The tree was the focal point of the Mayor's Holiday Light Up Celebration on Friday, November 25th.

It was crucial that CRC make it a special occasion while preserving all of the traditions that people have come to know. It took an incredible amount of teamwork to make this event a memorable one. The Holiday Lighting Celebration Team included staff from Communication & Design, Indoor Maintenance, Trades, Waterfront office and maintenance staff and many of the folks from the Outdoor Maintenance Division.

The new location gave way to a whole new set of additional challenges. The ice rink was constructed on the current roller rink at the Skating Pavilion, where the celebration was held. Outdoor maintenance staff not only had to search for the perfect holiday tree, but needed to maneuver around trees and bushes in order to place it at its place of honor on the rink. Additional holiday decorations were found, including 12-foot inflatable snowmen to decorate the surrounding areas. The electrical needs were greater than ever before given that over 300,000 miniature lights were placed in the trees and bushes. Additional theatrical lighting was rented to stage the entertainment portion of the celebration which was broadcast "live" on WXIX-TV around the city. Waterfront staff supervised the preparations and readied the Skating Pavilion for the thousands of happy ice skaters that would visit Sawyer Point during the holidays. Office staff, along with WXIX-TV, produced an enjoyable evening of entertainment for everyone. In this regard, the teamwork for the entire 2005 Holiday Lighting Celebration was unsurpassed and the event was a huge success!

## Dazzle Days

All aboard for Holiday fun at the Downtown Days of Dazzle December of 2005!

This new program held at Tower Place Mall provided free art activities and games to over 2000 youth and their parents. This program was offered in coordination with Downtown Cincinnati Incorporated in order to provide family activities in a downtown setting during the holiday season.

Tri-state residents filled the Tower Place Mall each weekend in December to shop, dine, listen to carolers and visit Santa's Dazzle Days Workshop. It was truly a group effort to pull a cachet of activities in such a short period of time. Activities ranged from face painting and making frames to blowing up balloons

and ring toss. Although steered by the Central Region, this 3-weekend-long event could not have been pulled off without the efforts of all the CRC staff who participated, all of whom gave up their weekends

to work this event.

Staff provided activities for nearly four-hundred children a

Ø5

day every weekend in December. Families thoroughly enjoyed the games, balloons, and unique crafts. In cooperation with the Main Public Library, Downtown Cincinnati Incorporated,

CRC staff dazzled Cincinnati families with weekends to remember.





## Community Outreach Festivals

The Cincinnati Recreation Commission produced three Community Outreach Festivals in 2005. The first was on Saturday June 11 at Washington Park. The second was on Saturday, July 23rd at the Millvale Recreation Center. The third Community Outreach Festival was on August 13th at Hirsch Recreation Center. These festivals were designed to let residents of the community learn about the goods and services that are available to them. The Cincinnati Fire Division brought their Smoke House and the Cincinnati Police Dept was on hand with their dogs and horses. There were representatives from Health and City Services available to speak with residents. A chess competition, a pool party, games, snow cones, hotdogs and a moonwalk contest will provide the fun, with a local DJ providing the entertainment.

## Over-the-Rhine Initiatives

In celebration of Washington Park's 150th anniversary, Washington Park Community Partners scheduled a series of exciting events that took place in the Over-The-Rhine landmark summer 2005.

The 'Summer Fun 2005' grand opening event took place June 11th with events including a Community Outreach Festival, a celebration of the Washington Park Community, and the swimming pool opened for the season. The Washington Park Community Partners developed initiatives that renewed the image of Cincinnati's oldest official park, including CRC Activities for Children every Monday, Wednesday and Friday throughout the summer, and an Over-the-Rhine Community Festival. Washington Park Community Partners, based in Cincinnati has been developing programs to revitalize and build financial stability in Over -the-Rhine, and is proud to claim the Cincinnati Recreation Commission as one of its partners.

## Winton Hill Spring Health Break

This year, instead of Spring Break on the beach, for a group of 25 youngsters (age 6-12), Spring Break 2005 was the opportunity to learn about fitness and health. "Discover Healthy Adventures in Learning" was a joint effort between the Cincinnati Recreation Commission, Winton Hills Academy, Discover Health, Center for Families and Children and Win Med. It was a week-long program intended to promote health and fitness for children from the Winton Hills Community. It was offered daily from Monday, March 28th - Friday, April 1st from 9:30 am to 2:30 pm at the Winton Hills Recreation Center. Participants played sports, learned about physical fitness and cooked healthy foods designed to teach children about the benefits of healthy habits and a positive attitude.



## Best of Awards

McKie Center received a "Best of Cincinnati" Award in 2005. CRC and the McKie Community Center, in Northside also presented "Life in the Maketewah Valley Art Expo" on Friday, November 14th, 2005. The show was about Art, Nature and the Mill Creek Valley. There were depictions of Life in the Mill Creek Valley, Eco-entrepreneurship concepts and a chance to see the "Best Memorial Garden" and Ecological restoration projects.



Over the Thine Center also relived a "Best of Cincinnati" Award in 2005:

Actually, the AGNES WAGNER McKIE MEMO-RIAL GARDEN in Northside is two gardens in one. It first sprouted in 1997 as an experimental community garden for the seniors and daycampers at the McKie Community Center, Eight years later, this near-acre of land has become the only ecological restoration garden in Cincinnati. Maintained by OPAN (Our Plants Are Native), gardeners take advantage of nearby Chase Elementary School's greenhouse to cultivate native seedlings collected from within a 60-mile radius. The preserve is used as an educational facility, and as an incubator for harvesting and redistributing native plants and seeds to local parks and yards. McKie's community gardeners plant a row for the hungry as well, supporting Ohio University's Volunteer Veggie program by growing vegetables that are donated to neighboring food pantries. 1655 Chase Ave., Northside, (513) 681-8247

BEST WAY TO GET WET: "World-class kayak instruction by certified instructors in Over the Rhine" - that's not the sort of sentence you might expect to read, but true nonetheless. Don Brannen and his team of instructors offer 8-to-10-week beginner and advanced courses that concentrate on injury prevention, play boating, river running and kayak touring. Winter action takes place in a heated pool, while summer classes move to the outdoor pool and the best available waters. Best of all, the instruction fees go toward a CRC's Vision Trek - an inner-city teen outdoor leadership program, run out of McKie Center - that takes kids skiing, snowboarding, white water rafting and snorkeling.











# City Pools Open Early & Extend Season

Due the early summer heat wave, the Cincinnati Recreation Commission made every effort to get city pools open as soon as possible. The following six (6) pools opened sooner than originally planned:

North Fairmount Pool, Dyer Sprayground, College Hill Pool, Over-The-Rhine Pool, Bond Hill Pool and Hoffman Pool.

Also due to the extensive and oppressive heat this summer, thirteen (13) Cincinnati City pools have extended their season. The following pools extended their closing date and stayed open longer than originally planned:

Pleasant Ridge Pool, Filson Pool, Hoffman Pool, Mt. Adams Pool, Madisonville Pool, Lincoln Pool, Dempsey Pool, Dyer Sprayground, Ryan Pool, Otto Armleder, McKie, Camp Washington, College Hill.

The CRC Neighborhood Watch program was also put into effect. CRC emphasizes each year that the community keep their eyes and ears open for after-hours swimming. They are asked to call 911 immediately if they see or hear swimmers in a pool area when the pool is closed. If residents notice any fence cuts at city pools they call the City of Cincinnati Customer Service number at 591-6000 and they alert the Cincinnati Recreation Nigh Fence Crew.

# 30 Teens go on 56-Mile River Journey

Thirty teenagers, ages 13-17, began a once-in-a-lifetime-56-mile canoe journey down the Little Miami River on Tuesday, July 5th, when they departed the Corryville Recreation Center, as part of RiverTrek 2005. Most of these teens did not know each other and came from various socioeconomic backgrounds. They learned about nature, responsibility and working as a team. Many of the participants had never been out of an urban environment. There was an exciting addition to the RiverTrek routine this year. For the final leg of the trip, participants joined up with hundreds of canoe enthusiasts for PADDLEFEST and canoed 11 miles down the Ohio River from Four Seasons Marina to the Public Landing for the welcome home by family & friends.

#### Listed below was the itinerary for the trip:

Day 1 - (Tuesday, July 5th) Left Corryville Recreation Center at 9:00 am. Traveled by bus to Morgan's Canoe Livery. Picked up canoes, life jackets & paddles. Traveled to Oregonia and put-in at Deer Creek. Travel 12 miles and make camp at Morgan's Riverside Campground.

- Day 2 (Wednesday, July 6th) Traveled 16 miles for an overnight stay at Loveland Castle.
- Day 3 (Thursday, July 7th) Traveled 16 miles to Lower Craig Campground
- Day 4 (Friday, July 8th) Traveled 18 miles to Magrish Riverlands Preserve. Camp at California Woods.
- Day 5-(Saturday, July 9th) Joined PADDLEFEST and canoed 11 miles down the Ohio River to the Public Landing.

## Remembering Betty Blake

On Saturday, October 29th, 2005, long time steamboat advocate Betty Blake was remembered and honored along the banks of the Ohio River in Cincinnati.

Director, James R. Garges, along with past Cincinnati Mayor,
Ms. Bobbie Sterne, current Cincinnati Council Member, James

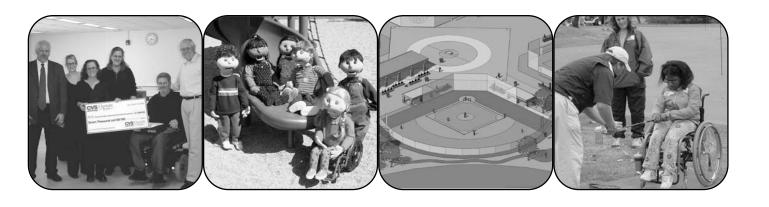
Tarbell, Mr. Alan Bernstein of Cincinnati's BB Riverboats, and Mr. Dan Pinger, of the local Public Relations firm, Dan Pinger P.R., spoke in Ms. Blake's honor and shared fond memories of her life. Those in attendance included a number of Betty Blake's friends and acquaintances from Carlisle and surrounding areas.

Betty Blake, who was best known for her energy and dedication during the "Save the Delta Queen" Campaign eventually became President of the Delta Queen Steamboat Company. She was honored on Cincinnati's Public Landing with a ceremony which unveiled a large golden plaque depicting her involvement on the Cincinnati Riverfront. The plaque will be permanently displayed on the wall at the top of the Public Landing, where it can be easily seen by folks boarding and departing the historic steamboats.

After the dedication and unveiling of the plaque, all of the guests were invited to board the Delta Queen herself, which was docked at the Public Landing.







## Count Me In Puppetry Program

For the past four years, The Division of Therapeutic Recreation (TR) has been providing a disability awareness program for the children at our community centers. This program was designed to help foster a climate of acceptance for children with disabilities who participate inclusively in CRC day camp programs. As we expand our efforts, we are always searching for new ways to implement the program. In June of 2005, TR applied for a grant from the CVS/pharmacy Charitable Trust for the purchase of a puppetry kit designed by The Pacer Center in Minneapolis, Minnesota. The COUNT ME IN Puppetry Program is a disability awareness project which teaches inclusion and disability awareness through puppet shows.

On November 1, 2005, The Cincinnati Recreation Foundation was awarded a grant in the amount of \$7,000 from the CVS/pharmacy Charitable Trust for the purchase of the puppetry kit! The kit contains eight, 3-foottall puppets who will portray youngsters from diverse backgrounds with a variety of disabilities. This program seeks to foster positive attitudes and promotes easier integration between children with disabilities and children without disabilities in schools and communities. We are very excited about the impact that this

program will have on promoting inclusion and disability awareness in our communities! If you are interested in learning more about the COUNT ME IN Puppetry Program, please call Stephanie Knarr at (513)352-4055!





# Miracle League Field of Dreams

CRC kicked off its inaugural season as host of the Miracle League of Greater Cincinnati on Saturday, April 23, 2005 at Salway Park. The Miracle League is comprised of children, teens and young adults with various physical and cognitive disabilities who play baseball. This year there were four teams and approximately 60 athletes. All aspects of the game are adapted to meet the needs of every player and to assure successful participation.



In the spring of 2005, the Miracle League of Greater Cincinnati, CRC and the Cincinnati Reds Community Fund announced the Oskamp site and began working together to build a synthetic-turf field to support the needs of the Miracle Legaue. This "Field of Dreams" is a specially-designed field built to meet the needs of the Miracle League athletes and their families. It will be part of a larger complex and will allow children with and without disabilities to play baseball in the same park and will be the first facility of this type located in the Cincinnati and the tri-state area. Miracle League teams are sponsored by the Cincinnati Recreation Commission and the Kid Glove Way/Powel Crosley, JR. Amateur Baseball Fund, Rohm & Haas, D.A.G. Construction, the Spina Bifida Association of Cincinnati and Elder High School.

## Adapted Golf Clinics

The Cincinnati Recreation Commission teamed up with Hamilton County Special Olympics and Billy Casper Golf to offer a Golf Clinic for youth, teens and adults with cognitive disabilities on Saturday, April 30, 2005 at Dunham Golf Course. The clinic featured instruction from CRC golf professionals who are experienced in working with people with disabilities. The clinic offered the beginning golfer the opportunity to work on putting, chipping, driving as well as a general introduction to the game of golf. Course play was also included in the clinic. CRC also began offering weekly group golf lessons for individuals with disabilities. For more information please contact Alayne 352-4945.



## Senior Hall of Fame

#### **RECIPE FOR HAPPINESS: SERVE OTHERS**

Lerlean the Pound Cake Queen was there, along with Mac the cop who does split-the-pot and Joe Meals on Wheels. Lucille, a 100-Club grandmother. Sid, the Iron Man of the Jewish Community Center. Anne, the Angel of Over-the-Rhine. They all took their turn walking down the long aisle at the Hyatt, applauded by more than 700 people. Each got a picture with Reds legend

Joe Nuxhall and an award that for most celebrates a lifetime of service: a place in the Senior Citizen Hall of Fame.

They have been selected by their fellow members for their hard work and dedication. Sharing their experiences of a lifetime and often acquiring new skills, they have made a significant contribution to the social and community life of the greater Cincinnati area," said the Cincinnati Recreation Commission, which has been doing annual recognition banquets for 38 years. That sounds like a long time. Unless you consider that Rosa Ellis has been a member of the same church, Mt. Zion Baptist Church of Woodlawn, for 65 years. She was nominated for her tireless work to help others.

#### It's a familiar theme.

"Over her 87 years, she has been a mother, a friend to the needy and a strong individual who can lift your spirits," the Wyoming Senior Citizens said of Lerlean Roberts, "Ms. Pound Cake Queen." And "her cake just melts in your mouth." Joseph Meyer, 80, was nominated by the North College Hill Senior Center for volunteering as a Meals on Wheels driver for the past 18 years, reliable "in any situation, climate or condition." Lucille Wade Coleman of the Mount Auburn Senior Center belongs in the Grandmother Hall of Fame. She has 100 grandchildren and great-grandchildren. Sidney Glassman reported for duty at the Jewish Community Center on the day he was having major surgery, then returned as soon as he was able. James McAllister - known as "Mac" to his friends at Dunham Seniors - served as a Cincinnati police officer for 28 years, then kept on serving as a volunteer. Anne Taylor was nominated by her church of 30 years, Montgomery Assembly of God, for her work as founder of the Lord's Pantry in Over-the-Rhine. I've seen her there, handing out food and hugs to the lost, lonely and unloved - bruised hookers, needle-scarred addicts and homeless guys like a pile of unwashed laundry on legs.

All of the 35 Hall of Famers I saw seemed to be energized by their service - as if they get a lot more than they give away. They seemed happy and youthful, yet humble about the way they help other people, as if that's the least they could do and anyone else would do the same. They blew whistles for one another, tapped spoons on water glasses, cheered and applauded, as if it were a joy to celebrate the blessing of being involved in life. Nuxhall, who always has room in his big heart to help a good cause, joked, "We're not done yet" - as cheers filled the room.

And there was something else. Over and over, the nominations mentioned faith, naming dozens of churches and denominations all over the city. As if those are the gardens where volunteer vines bear the best fruit. Councilman David Crowley honored them all for "enhancing the life of our city by donating time, wisdom and experience." It was inspiring and humbling - as if maybe our serve-yourself culture has a lot more than recipes to learn from people like Lerlean the Pound Cake Queen.

- Senior Olympics 2005 Did You KNOW?

   The first Senior Olympics was held in 1980, 10 events with 67 adults.
- CRC has hosted the event since 1992.
  In 2005 the program offered 18 sports with 65 events.
- 139 new athletes registered in 2005 total of 776 athletes in 2005. • There was an increase in women's participation in 2005.
- Shuffleboard and more swimming events were added in 2005.
   CRC offered 8 clinics at the Kickoff with on-site registration.

- article by Peter Bronson, Enquirer staff writer -

# Senior Change Grant

This year the Senior Division relived a \$15,000 grant. The "change" grant is a collaborative effort between CRC's Madisonville and Oakley Senior Centers and Hyde Park Center for Older Adults. In support of each Center's mission to reach and serve more eastside older adults, a quarterly direct mail piece is sent to residents 50 & older in each of the areas. This direct appeal partnered with existing marketing practices and included a coupon call to action. Coinciding with these mailings, joint events were planned between the 3 centers to promote and affirm the programs and services available for older adults at each center.

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This program is made possible through a grant from the Ohio Department of Natural Resources to provide fishing instruction & activities, aquatic exploration and free equipment to participating centers. In 2005, this program partnered with the Public Library of Cincinnati and Hamilton County, The Cincinnati Parks Department, Hamilton County Parks, The Ohio Division of Natural Resources, Bass Pro Shops and the Cincinnati Police Department to provide a variety of youth service and support. "HOFNOD" emphasizes the value of being involved in positive outdoor recreation activities, while educating children about the negatives of drug use.

## Hooked on Fishing 2005 - Did You KNOW?

- 5,000 youth fished at Kid's Fest Fishing Pond
- 800 youth participated in two Fish Fest Events at Burnet Woods
- 500+ youth from 23 recreation centers participated in weekly instructional fishing trips, fish identification, environmental conservation, fishing safety and lure-making
- 160 youth participated in WaterFest hands-on workshops covering water safety, exploration and fishing education.
- Other activities included field trips to the Newport Aquarium and camping and fishing activities at Burnet Woods, the Little Miami River, Caesars Creek, Rocky Fork Lake, and the Ohio River
- 7,000 total youth served in 2005.

## NFL Flag Football

ANTHONY MUÑOZ PRESENTS \$20,000 TO NFL FLAG FOOTBALL

NFL Hall of Famer, Anthony Muñoz presented a check for \$20,000 to the Cincinnati Recreation Commission's NFL Flag Football program in City Council Chambers on June 22nd. The check was

presented on behalf of the Anthony Muñoz Foundation and the Marvin Lewis Community Fund to Sgt. Paul Brondhaver, who not only received the Purple Heart for his service in Iraq, but also recently received the Bronze Star for Valor and is currently the NFL Football coordinator for the Cincinnati Recreation Commission. The NFL Flag Football program is open to boys and girls, age 6-14, and introduces the great game of football while fostering the development of teamwork and physical fitness. NFL Flag Football is a traditional non-contact flag football program. Boys and girls play on co-ed teams. This program allows children to be involved in organized athletics, to be involved with the Bengals and to keep them out of trouble on the street. Many of these children are from inner city neighborhoods and this kind of structured programming offers them the opportunity to develop fundamental skills.



Twelve arts organizations were awarded grants through the City of Cincinnati's 2005 competitive Small Arts Organization Grant Program. The awards help fund a range of activities including visual art exhibitions, vocal and instrumental music concerts, a contemporary dance series, theater productions, a multi-disciplinary arts program for prisoners at the River City Correctional Institution, and programs for artists with disabilities. Grant recipients are BASE Gallery, Cincinnati Arts Association, Cincinnati Chamber Music Society, Contemporary Dance Theater, Enjoy the Arts, Know Theatre Tribe, MUSE, Cincinnati's Women's Choir, Ohio Justice and Policy Center, New Edgecliff Theatre, Starling Project Foundation, Visionaries and Voices, and Women Writing for (a) Change Foundation. Awards range from \$2,500 to \$4,500 and total \$42,188.

Arts and cultural organizations funded through the City's 2005 Major Arts and Cultural Organization Grant Program are CET, Cincinnati Art Museum, Cincinnati Ballet, Cincinnati May Festival, Cincinnati Museum Center, Cincinnati Opera, Cincinnati Playhouse in the Park, Cincinnati Public Radio (WGUC and WVXU), Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra, Contemporary Arts Center, and Taft Museum of Art. Grants range from \$5,797 to \$26,718 and total \$114,062.

CRC administers three grant programs funded by The City of Cincinnati's Arts Policy (0.14% of General Fund revenues) and manages an annual contract with the Arts Consortium of Cincinnati, Greater Cincinnati's largest minority arts organization. The grant programs, established in 1989, provide support to twelve major arts and cultural organizations that are designated recipients of City funding and offer grants on a competitive basis to artists residing in Cincinnati and to nonprofit, Cincinnati-based small arts organizations. The City of Cincinnati is the only local government in the Tri-State that operates arts grant programs. It is the primary local funder of Cincinnati artists.

The goal of the arts grant programs is to provide 1) support for Cincinnati's emerging and established artists and arts organizations and 2) increased access to arts experiences for Cincinnati residents. The grant programs encourage excellence and professionalism in the arts and the development of innovative arts projects or programs that respond to diverse community needs.

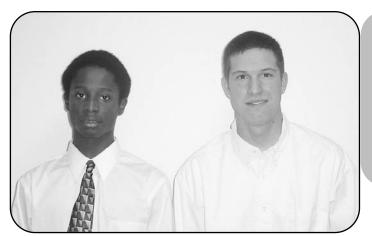
The Cincinnati Arts Allocation Committee (CAAC), a City advisory body appointed by the Mayor, makes funding recommendations for the competitive grant programs and advises the City on various arts matters. The following individuals served on the CAAC in 2005: Andy Marko (Chairperson), Peter Bilotta (Vice Chairperson), Kristen Dietsche (Vice Chairperson-Elect), Kate Kern, Hector Moreno, Jeaunita Olowe, Glenn Ray, Dorothy Smith, and Adrienne Thompson.

#### **Public Art Activities**

The CRC Public Art Committee (CPAC), an ad hoc committee of the CAAC, was established in 2005 to help develop recommendations, plans, procedures and policies for CRC's current and future public art programs and collection. CPAC members are Kristin Dietsche (Co-Chairperson), Kate Kern (Co-Chairperson), Stephen Bonadies, Dennis Harrington, Hank Hildebrandt, Mary Kamp, Grace Meacham, Jill Rowinski, and Linda Shearer. The CPAC will present recommendations to the Recreation Commission in 2006.

CRC plans to conduct a condition assessment of the five major permanent public artworks at the Waterfront in 2006. The study will be conducted by a fine art conservation firm. The study will help CRC maximize its ability to be a good steward of artworks that attract people to the city and, in the case of the Cincinnati Gateway's flying pigs, have even become Cincinnati icons. The assessment will include written and photographic documentation of the current condition of each artwork, identification of causes of deterioration, and recommended plans of action. The lead funder for the project is the American Institute of Architects Cincinnati chapter. Other project funding is from the Bicentennial Commons fund overseen by the Board of Visitors and the Cincinnatus Association.

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# Youth Commission Appointments in 2005

In 2005, the Cincinnati Recreation Commission announced the appointment of two local high school students, Mr. Ean harris and Mr. Jacob Lawson to one-year terms as youth representatives on the CRC Board of Commissioners. CRC recognizes the importance of fostering youth involvement in leadership roles within the community. The youth Commission appointees help give a public voice to the needs and issues affecting today's youth in Cincinnati. Mr. Harris and Mr. Lawson attended Commission meetings and other city functions as representatives of the Commission. They also created and implemented various youth service projects during their term.

#### Jacob Lawson

Jacob Lawson is currently a sophomore at Shroder Paideia High School. He participates in a variety of extra curricular activities including the Big Brother / Big Sister program for the school, as well as playing on the baseball team. He was the Student Manager for the football team this past fall and also a member of the People to People Education Forum with educators from Russia. He became a member of the National Honor Society in 2002 and works with the school administrator to help develop new community service projects for students.

Jacob's involvement with the Cincinnati Recreation Commission began at LeBlond Center as a day camper. He volunteered in 2002 and 2003, by assisting staff with day camp activities. This past summer he worked as an intern in the Recreation Employment Corps and did an excellent job assisting with the Summer Day Camp program. His Mentor in the program, Sandy Richardson, has often spoken of Jacob's dedication in working with the younger children insuring that they have a wonderful time while at camp. Jacob also joined the RiverTrek 2004 trip bringing his humor and positive personality to this adventure teen program.

From Jacob's perspective, he sites too much unsupervised time, as a major problem for the youth of our City. He believes that the Cincinnati Recreation Commission provides quality structured activities and positive peer leadership opportunities for youth in the city. Jacob feels he can make a difference by listening to what teens in our Community have to say and helping provide more opportunities for them.

#### **Ean Harris**

Ean currently attends Christ Emmanuel Christian Academy. He has a long list of school awards including Perfect Attendance, Conduct Award, Math & Science Achievement, Good Citizenship and the Principal's Award for A Honor Roll. He has gained leadership experience through planning and conducting a Mock Presidential Election at his school this past fall and also helping plan and host a Candidates' Night in 2003, in which City Council Candidates were invited to come and share their experiences and platforms with the public. Additionally, Ean has authored two essays which were published in the compendium, A Reconciliation Institute: Truth & Reconciliation Forum 2004, which was held to launch the racial reconciliation movement in Cincinnati.

Ean has a long history with the Cincinnati Recreation Commission, attending day camps at Krueck and Corryville Centers, as well as playing in CRC basketball leagues at Price Hill. Ean honed his outdoor skills this past summer in his first RiverTrek journey and plans to return as a Peer Leader in 2005.

Ean hopes that as a Youth Commissioner he can "serve to improve the relationship between the youth and the Community." He believes that CRC helps get the youth of our City involved in positive and constructive programs.

# Cincinnati Recreation Commission

2005

#### **Cincinnati Recreation Commission**

Statement of Revenues & Expenditures for the Year Ended 12/31/05

	<u>Revenue</u>	<u>Expenditures</u>
West Region 1/TR	634,587	2,723,409
East Region 2	772,791	2,705,320
Central Region 3/SR	792,591	3,116,433
Maintenance	-	5,740,844
Golf	6,008,368	5,955,272
Aquatics/Athletics	629,943	1,987,184
Waterfront	826,965	787,607
Administration	41,651	1,893,678
Total	9,706,896	24,909,747
Donations	280,610	377,651
Capital Projects (exp a	16,418,986	

2004

#### **Cincinnati Recreation Commission**

Statement of Revenues & Expenditures for the Year Ended 12/31/04

	Revenue	<b>Expenditures</b>
West Region 1/TR	320,042	2,713,534
East Region 2	796,740	2,571,092
Central Region 3/SR	839,501	3,322,802
Maintenance	-	5,611,771
Golf	6,138,874	5,931,369
Aquatics/Athletics	615,533	1,944,938
Waterfront	858,580	926,841
Administration	36,717	2,006,242
Total	9,605,987	25,028,589
Donations	244,761	267,936
Capital Projects (exp o	20,928,626	

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